

YALE-NEW HAVEN TRANSPLANTATION CENTER

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Public Health Committee Bill No. 5610

HB 5610

March 11, 2011

Dear Representatives and Senators,

The Yale-New Haven Transplantation Center provides expert, comprehensive and compassionate care for adult and pediatric patients throughout the world who are candidates or recipients of organ transplantation. YNHTC team members perform liver, kidney, pancreas and heart transplantation. In addition, YNHTC is responsible for the medical care of thousands of Connecticut residents with live-saving organ transplants.

All organ transplant recipients require the use of immunosuppressive medications to prevent rejection of the life-saving organ. These medications must be taken daily for life as prescribed to prevent loss of the organ and loss of life. The most commonly used class of immunosuppressive medications, the calcineurin inhibitors (cyclosporine and tacrolimus), are considered "Narrow Therapeutic Index" (NTI) medications. NTI medications have a very fine line between efficacy (preventing rejection) and toxicity (seizures and kidney failure). Slight changes in the blood levels of these medications can cause severe consequences ultimately resulting in loss of life.

To help our clinicians provide the best possible care for our patients, we request that HB 5610 be amended to apply to transplant immunosuppressive NTI medications to help ensure that appropriate patient follow-up can be done when patients are changed from brand to generic or from different generic products of different manufacturers.

Sincerely,



Sukru Emre M.D., FACS

Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics

Chief, Section of Transplantation and Immunology

Director, Yale-New Haven Transplantation Center

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